



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

101 South Main • Suite 102 • Temple, TX 76501

Phone: (254) 742-9710 • Fax: (254) 742-9709 • TDD: (254) 742-9700 • Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx>

Date: October 7, 2005
Release Number TX 421.05

Contact Name: Gayle Aubrey
Telephone Number: (254) 742-9700
Email: gayle.aubrey@tx.usda.gov

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTS HURRICANE RITA RECOVERY

TEMPLE, TEXAS, October 7, 2005— USDA Rural Development will assign Community Programs Assessment Teams to counties included in the Presidential Disaster Declaration beginning October 11, 2005. Teams will contact borrowers with agency financed projects such as water and wastewater systems, schools, libraries, fire and rescue stations, community centers, public buildings, and transportation to determine damage sustained from Hurricane Rita. In addition, staff will be available to assist potential applicants with questions concerning the agency's programs and FEMA applications due October 24, 2005.

USDA Rural Development administers Community Programs to develop essential facilities for public use in areas of up to 20,000 in population, and water and wastewater systems in areas of up to 10,000 in population. Financial assistance is available to municipalities, counties, special-purpose districts, non-profit corporations, and tribal governments. Since 2001, \$868 million has been awarded for these purposes, and touched the lives of more than 840,000 households in the process.

USDA Rural Development strives to ensure that rural citizens can participate fully in the global economy by providing technical assistance, funding, and other programs that help rural Americans build strong economies to improve their quality of life. For further information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, call Paco Valentin, Community Programs Director, 254-742-9787 or visit us on the web at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/tx/>.

#

Committed to the future of rural communities.

"USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender."

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD).